

# Data Zone Consultation and Response

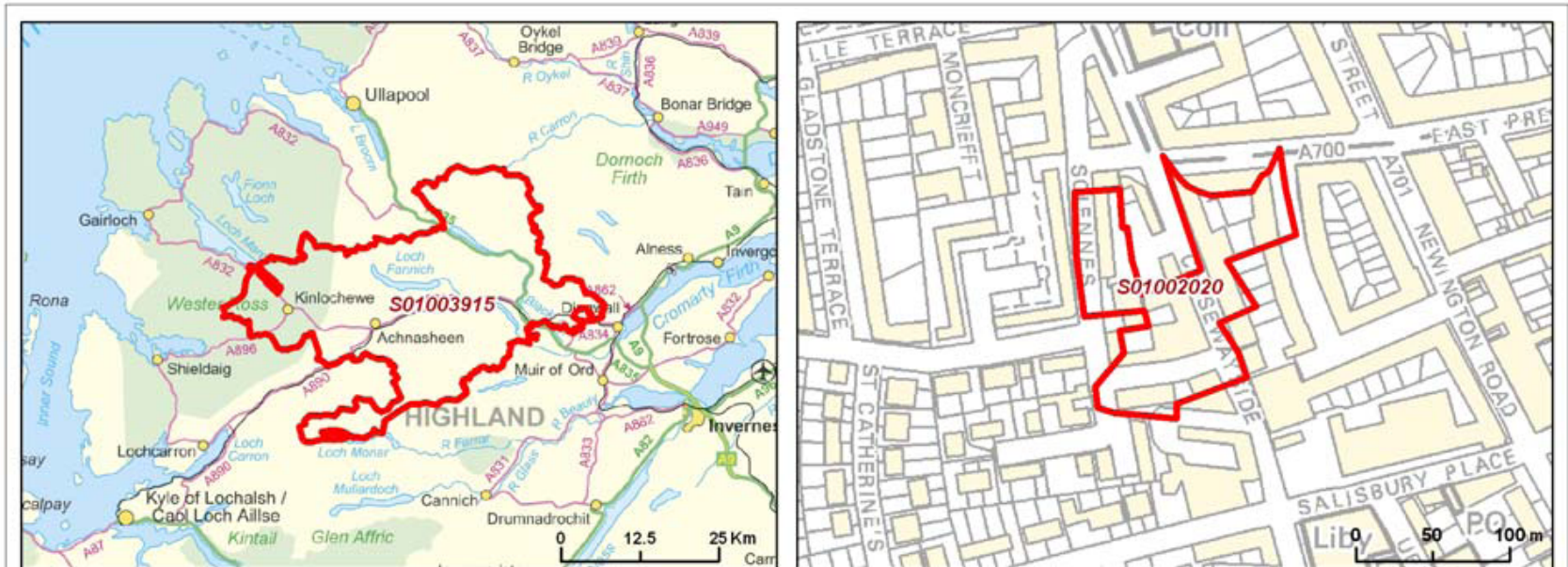
Small Area Statistics Branch

Scottish Government

26<sup>th</sup> October 2011

# What are Data zones?

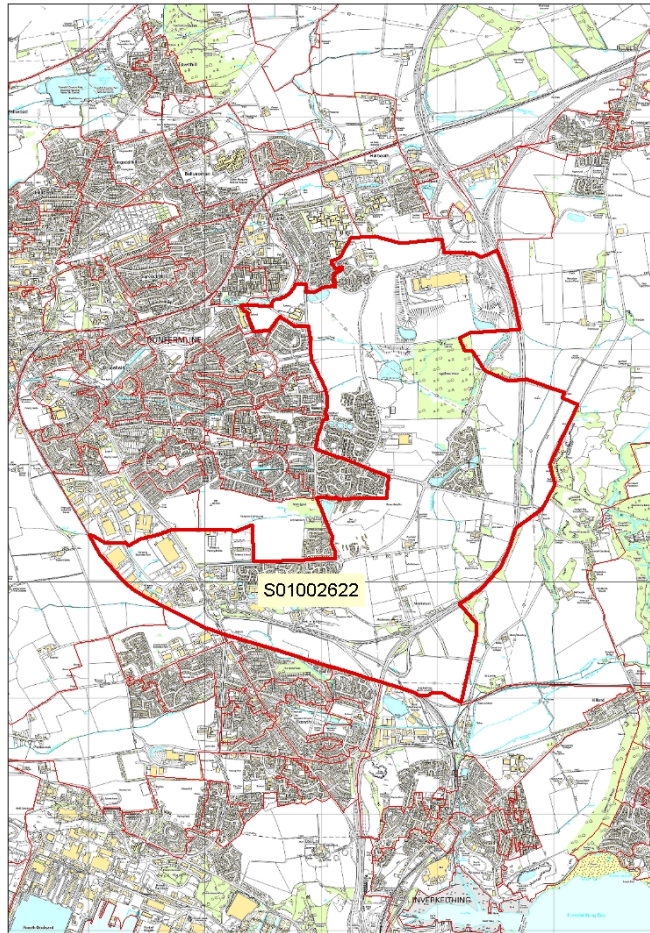
- Statistical Geography
- Fixed boundaries over time
- Roughly standard populations
- Used as building blocks to higher level geographies



# The Issues

- Population change
  - Small data zones are a disclosure risk
  - Large data zones are not useful as a small area geography

# Population Change

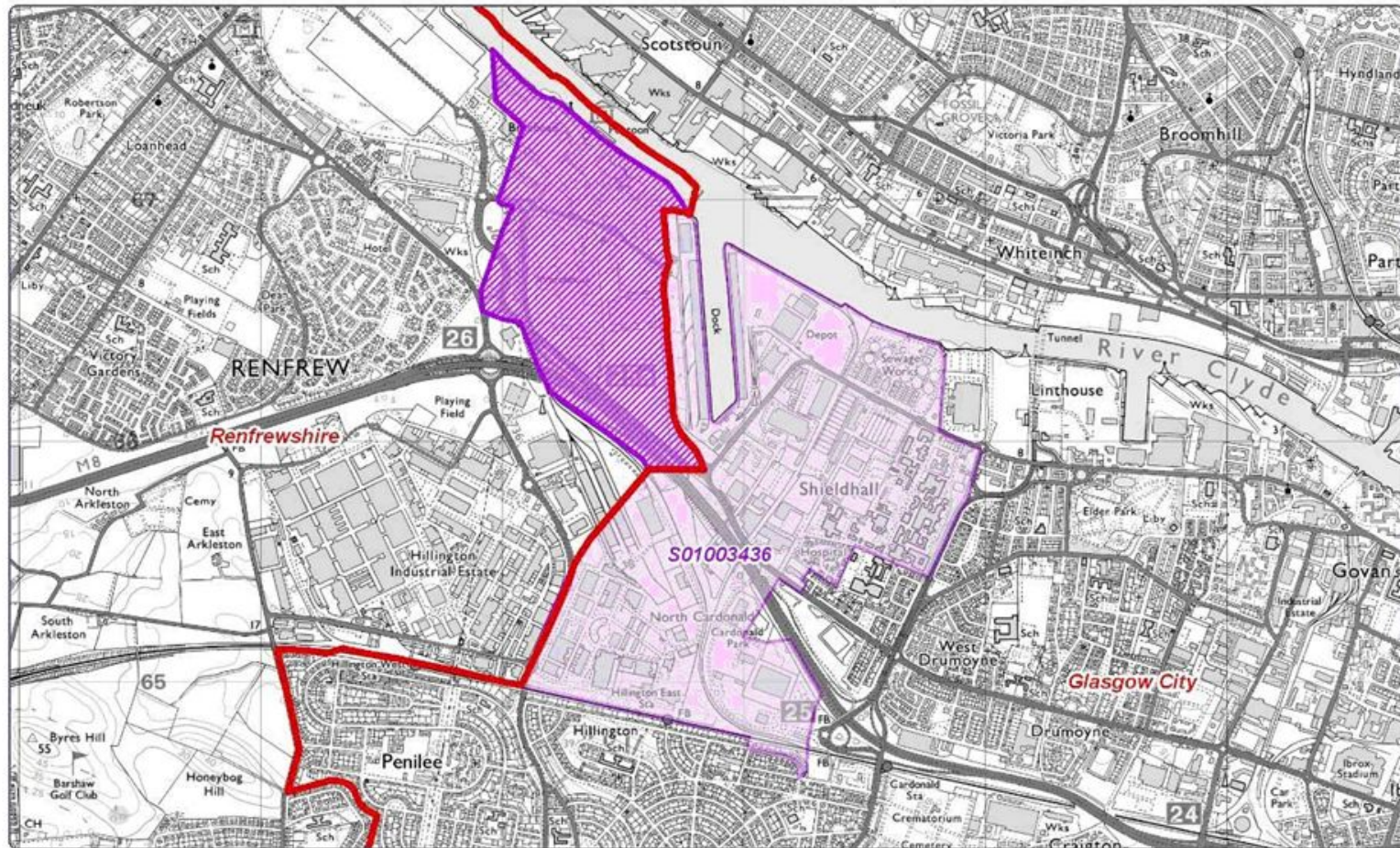


# The Issues

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- Boundary changes to higher level geographies



# Boundary Changes



## Data Zones that Cross Local Authorities

-  Local Authority Boundary
-  Data Zone Boundary
-  Portion of Data Zone located within Renfrewshire Council

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Scottish Government GI Science & Analysis Team, August 2010, Job 4870 - KT



# The Issues

- Population change
  - Small data zones are a disclosure risk
  - Large data zones are not useful as a small area geography
- Boundary changes to higher level geographies
- Postcode drift

# Consultation

- Carried out second half of 2010
- Results published early 2011
- Good number of responses
- ... but also a very mixed response



# Main Messages

- Little distinction between the data zone geography and statistics on data zones
- Users consider large data zones to be a problem
- Data suppliers are concerned about disclosure
- Problems with island data zones

# Main Messages

- “Central” organisations tend to want a stable geography over time
- “Local” organisations (are more likely to) want a geography that reflects locally recognised boundaries
- Everyone wants accurate statistics

# The Plan

- 2011 Census Output Areas will be best-fit to existing data zone boundaries
- Data zones outwith the 375-1,125 population range will be split or merged along Census Output Area boundaries – this will form the first cut of the new boundaries

# The Plan

- Local Authorities will then be consulted on these boundaries
- Some tweaks may be made once the Small Area Census results are published
- Aiming to have the final set of boundaries published early/mid-2013

# Why This Approach?

- Allows exact 2011 Census data on data zone boundaries
- Aligns to LA boundaries
- Aligns to postcode boundaries
- Consistent with approach taken during the inception of data zones
- Balances need for comparability over time with the need to reflect locally recognised boundaries



# How will this affect the statistics

- A consistent geography over time can be produced by merging data zones
- Discontinuities in statistics that cannot be aggregated
- Other issues:
  - Disclosure rules may prevent “dual-running”
  - Postcode drift
  - Risk Output Areas may be merged across data zone boundaries

# Scale of the changes

- 2010 Small Area Population Estimates suggest that roughly 6% of data zones will change:
  - 17 data zones will be merged with neighbouring data zones
  - 398 data zones will be split into 2 or more data zones
- In addition:
  - 14 changes to LA boundaries

Questions?